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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

2 October 1973

Copy No.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

SUBJECT: Annual Report on Coordination of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Effort

I submit herewith my annual report to your Board on coordination of the U.S. foreign intelligence effort. Because of the timing of the changeover in DCIs since the last report, this submission covers the period 1 July 1972 through 30 September 1973 rather than Fiscal Year 1973 only. This report is not intended as a summary of all of the important intelligence developments which occurred during the reporting period, but, as the title indicates, focuses only on those which involve coordinated community action.

A. GENERAL

1. The primary actions taken to improve the coordination of the intelligence community effort during the reporting period have involved:

- a. The establishment of community objectives.
- b. The issuance of DCI guidance for improving intelligence products and management.
- c. The development of procedures for creating national foreign intelligence budget recommendations.
- d. The improvement of means for the evaluation of both on-going and proposed new programs.
- e. The strengthening of the DCI Intelligence Community staff.

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f. The Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS) Program

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In September 1972, Mr. Helms and Dr. Hall agreed to review the total interagency information handling problem to provide a frame of reference for evaluating the NSA proposal for development of a COINS II system. The review was conducted by ASD(I) under the general auspices of IRAC. Chaired by a Deputy ASD(I), an interagency review group worked from November 1972 to February 1973 to evaluate COINS as a means for automated information exchange among Washington area intelligence agencies.

g. The recommendations of the COINS report were accepted by Dr. Schlesinger, and ASD(I) became Executive Agent for the COINS experiment under the auspices of the DCI. The COINS system was raised to the TK level, an interagency files working group was established, and the COINS Project Office at NSA undertook further detailed planning for a COINS communication net and for the strengthening of COINS management reporting.

h. At the July 1973 IRAC meeting, Dr. Hall reported on preliminary steps now under way through his office to organize these new initiatives into a

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time-phased plan and to arrange COINS funding for FY 1974 and FY 1975. As reported at the PFIAB Technical Panel meeting on 6 September 1973, ASD(I) will present by January 1974 a technical plan, funding plan, and scheduling plan for the further development of COINS. A preliminary report on these matters will be made at the IRAC meeting this fall.

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i. Complementing the ASD(I) effort, the Information Handling Committee (IHC) of USIB is working to identify both short-range and long-range problems which reduce the effectiveness of COINS, including the need for management improvements. Solutions to short-range problems will be implemented as quickly as possible, and the IHC will seek to develop methodologies for addressing longer term problems utilizing the resources of all USIB members.

j. A Management Information System

Efforts to develop a community-wide information mechanism to display relationships of national intelligence resources to U.S. intelligence organizations, activities, and targets began in 1967-68 as a result of an OBM-DCI-OSD effort to develop a "target-oriented display". Each year since then, the DCI has directed the compilation of data and further testing and development of the information mechanism called CIRIS (Consolidated Intelligence Resources Information System).

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k. To date, the CIRIS effort has been valuable in establishing an orderly means of cataloging and describing the intelligence business as a whole, crossing program and organization lines. Information derived from CIRIS has provided general overviews for the NIPM, for Congressional briefings by the DCI, and for some aspects of the program and budget review cycle. The system's major current limitations involve lack of timeliness in receipt of some data and lack of quality control over the accuracy of the data inputs. Greater participation by program managers is essential, including their acceptance of responsibility for substantially improved data inputs. I have decided to establish an Information Working Group under IRAC to address these and related matters. ASD(I) has assured me of his cooperation in this and will provide the working group chairmanship. The report will be made to IRAC by the working group by mid-December 1973.

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